

Measuring an Angle with a Protractor

1. Approximate the measure of your angle. Angles can be classified in three ways: right, acute, and obtuse. You can easily identify by eye, the category of angle you are trying to measure. Doing this step first helps you identify which scale to use on the protractor.
2. Place the origin over the center point, or vertex, of the angle you want to measure. The small hole in the middle of the base of the protractor is the origin. Align the vertex of the angle with the center of the cross in the origin.
3. Rotate the protractor to align one leg of the angle with the baseline. Maintain the vertex of the angle in the origin and gently rotate the protractor so that one of the legs of the angle falls on the baseline of the protractor.
4. Follow the opposite leg of the angle up to the measurements on the protractor's curve. If the line does not pass through the protractor's curve, extend the angle's line until it does. The number the line passes through is the angle's measurement in degrees.

Drawing an Angle with a Protractor

Draw a straight line. The line is your reference line and the first leg of your angle. It will be used to determine the position at which you draw the second leg of the angle. It's generally easiest to draw the straight line in a horizontal position on the paper.

1. Place the center of the protractor at one end of the line. This point will be your angle's vertex. Mark the paper where the vertex is placed.
2. Find the degree of the angle you wish to draw on the protractor's appropriate scale. Align your reference line with the protractor's baseline and mark the paper at the degree of measurement. If you are drawing an acute angle (less than 90 degrees), use the scale with the smaller numbers. For obtuse angles (greater than 90 degrees), use the scale with larger numbers.
3. Draw the second leg to complete the angle. Using a ruler, the flat edge of your protractor or another straight edge, connect the vertex with the marked degree, drawing the second leg. This second leg completes your angle. To verify you've drawn the angle accurately, use the protractor to measure it.